

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 4, 15, and 16 are pending in this paper. Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 17-38 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Indeed, Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claim 4 is amended, incorporating all the limitations of independent claim 1, and are allowable as indicated at page 9 of this Office Action.

Claims 15 and 16 are amended, incorporating all the limitations of independent claim 12, and are allowable as indicated at page 9 of this Office Action.


CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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